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LETTER DATED 13 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, the text of the communiqué issued on 8 March 1998 by the Cameroonian Government in response to recent statements made by the Nigerian authorities concerning the situation in the Bakassi peninsula.

"The Cameroonian Government wishes to state that the allegations of the Nigerian authorities to the effect that Cameroon is in the process of massing troops in preparation for a military attack on Bakassi are completely unfounded and are merely a further attempt to justify the continuing aggression and armed escalation which that aggressor country is perpetually engaging in in the area.

"In fact, in its frontier dispute with Nigeria, Cameroon has always chosen the path of peaceful settlement in accordance with international law.

"That is why it referred the matter to the International Court of Justice in The Hague; on 15 March 1996, the latter decreed protective measures to be observed by the two parties and it has just opened, on 2 March 1998, the oral arguments on the preliminary objections raised by Nigeria regarding the admissibility of the case and the competence of the court.

"Accordingly, Cameroon vigorously protests the effort Nigeria is making to manipulate international public opinion and it condemns any attempt to justify further Nigerian aggression in the field.

"Cameroon again invites Nigeria to respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of that of the Organization of African Unity, as is proper, and the protective measures decreed by the International Court of Justice in The Hague so that peace may reign in Bakassi and all along the shared frontier before, during and after the final verdict which the international court will shortly pronounce."



I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Martin BELINGA EBOUTOU
Permanent Representative
